

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Meeting of the Commission
September 24, 2012
10:00 a.m.

James R. Thompson Center
Murdock Room - IDHS
Suite 5-300
100 West Randolph Street
Chicago, IL 60601

and

Lincoln Land Training Center
130 W. Mason Street
Room 104
Springfield, Illinois

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Commissioners

In Chicago

Chairman Martin R. Castro
Robert A. Cantone
David Chang
Terry Cosgrove
Nabi Fakroddin
Marylee V. Freeman (via telephone)
Rozanne Ronen (via telephone)
David J. Walsh
Patricia Bakalis Yadgir
Diane M. Viverito

In Springfield

Marti Baricevic

Absent

None

Staff

Keith N. Chambers
Michael J. Evans
LaNade Bridges
Donyelle L. Gray
Evelio Mora
Bricia Herrera
Sheida Ahmadzadeh (Fall Coles Fellow)
Stephanie Northrop (Fall Coles Fellow)
Mandy Lee (Volunteer)

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Members of Public: None

NOTICE:

Closed meetings of the Illinois Human Rights Commission are audio recorded.

I. Call to Order

On September 24, 2012, at 10:00 a.m., Chairman Martin R. Castro called to order a meeting of the Illinois Human Rights Commission.

Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq., it was determined that:

- 1) A quorum of the public body was physically present at the meeting.
- 2) Prior to the meeting Commissioners Freeman and Ronen requested to participate via telephone. The Commission voted to allow Commissioners Freeman and Ronen to participate in the meeting via telephone. Motion made by Commissioner Walsh and seconded by Commissioner Cantone. Motion carried 7-0
- 3) Commissioners Nabi and Cosgrove arrived after roll call.

II. Consideration of Minutes

August 22, 2012

The Commission voted to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2012, meeting as submitted by staff. Motion to approve the minutes made by Commissioner Freeman and seconded by Commissioner Yadgir. Motion carried 9-0.

III. Chairman's Report

Martin R. Castro, Chairman

Chairman Castro reported they he participated in Governor Quinn's National Hispanic Heritage month celebration. The Governor acknowledged the Commission's work during this event.

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IV. Staff Reports

A. N. Keith Chambers, Executive Director

Mr. Chambers updated the Commission on the Commission's Power Point Presentation. An electronic copy of the presentation will be distributed to the Commissioners for their review and input within the following week.

Mr. Chambers reported that materials are being gathered for the Commission's 2012 Annual Report. The Annual Report will be ready before the January 14, 2013, deadline and ten days before the beginning of the session of the General Assembly.

Mr. Chambers reported that by the following week the Legislative Advocacy Proposal will be ready for the Chairman's review.

Mr. Chambers announced that he will be a keynote speaker at the Illinois Faith Coalition of Springfield meeting on October 20, 2012.

B. Dr. Ewa I. Ewa, Chief Fiscal Officer

Dr. Ewa reported that the Commission's budget surplus will change on a monthly basis.

Dr. Ewa reported that the Illinois Torture Commission is still in existence, until further notice.

Dr. Ewa reported that 21 letters were sent out seeking bids for court reporting contracts for the HRC's Springfield office. Dr. Ewa reported that he chose the lowest bidder in compliance with CMS guidelines.

Dr. Ewa reported that that he is waiting for the Office of the Governor to approve paying step increases and COLAs for the last two years. Dr. Ewa explained to the Commission that HRC staff is owed \$45,000.00 in total.

C. Michael J. Evans, Chief Administrative Law Judge

Judge Evans submitted the Administrative Law Section's statistics for the month of August 2012.

D. Donyelle L. Gray, General Counsel

Ms. Gray reported there were two Commissioner vacancies for Panel D and Panel C. Ms. Gray asked the Commissioners for volunteers and Commissioner Cantone volunteered for Panel D for November 14, 2012, and Chairman Castro volunteered for Panel C for November 28, 2012.

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The Commission voted to approve the HRC meeting calendar for 2013. Motion made by Commissioner Cosgrove, seconded by Commissioner Nabi. Motion carried 11-0.

Ms. Gray introduced the Fall Coles Fellows, Sheida Ahmadzadeh and Stephanie Northrop.

Ms. Gray distributed recent updates on Employment and Labor law.

V. New Business

None

VI. Executive Session

None

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m. Motion made by Commissioner Nabi, seconded by Commissioner Cosgrove. Motion carried 11-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donyelle L. Gray
General Counsel